

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7027

BILL NUMBER: HB 1123

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 1, 2006

BILL AMENDED: Mar 1, 2006

SUBJECT: Sexual Assault Standards and Certification Board.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Budak

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Becker

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill creates the Sexual Assault Standards and Certification Board (Board) to certify sexual assault victim advocates. The bill requires the Board to convene not later than October 1, 2006. It transfers control of the Sexual Assault Victims Account from the State Department of Health to the Board. It also repeals the Sexual Assault Victims Assistance Fund and replaces it with the Sexual Assault Victims Account.

Effective Date: Upon Passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill establishes an 11-member Sexual Assault Standards and Certification Board, consisting of the executive director of the Commission for Women and ten members appointed by the Governor. Staff for the Board would be provided by the Department of Workforce Development. The Board would develop standards for certification as a sexual assault victim advocate, set fees to cover the costs for the certification process, adopt rules, administer the Sexual Assault Victims Assistance Account, and certify sexual assault victims advocates to provide advocacy services. Members of the Board are entitled to receive reimbursement for mileage for attendance at meetings. Any other funding for the Board is paid at the discretion of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Additionally, the Board would administer the Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance Account, which is established under the bill. To the extent that the Board will incur expenditures to develop standards, one-time set-up costs will be incurred. The ongoing costs of certification will be paid by the fees collected for this purpose. The Board may designate up to 10% of the money appropriated to a nonprofit for program administration and may use up to 10% of the money collected for certification fees to administer the certification program.

Background Information: Three-year start-up costs for the six-member Indiana Hypnotist Committee were estimated by the Health Professions Bureau at \$85,000. However, there are no data available to indicate that this Board would incur similar start-up costs. Salary per diem is not allowed under the bill; however, mileage reimbursement is permitted.

Explanation of State Revenues: Currently, the Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance fee is collected by the county court clerk for violation of listed crimes, and forwarded to the Auditor of State for deposit in the Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance Fund. Under the bill, the Fund would be repealed and the revenues from the fee would be deposited in the Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance Account within the state General Fund. Additionally, the Account may receive appropriations; fees for certification; grants, gifts, donations; and interest. The Account would provide financial assistance to rape crisis centers.

Background Information: The Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance Fund was established by P.L. 280 of 2001 and is administered by the Office of Women's Health within the State Department of Health. Fee revenues deposited in the Fund have been as follows.

Year	Amount Deposited
FY 2002	\$30,242
FY 2003	\$30,377
FY 2004	\$56,025
FY 2005	\$33,677

The Office of Women's Health distributed money to the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault (INCASA) in 2004, who then distributed funds totaling \$33,000 to 24 rape crisis centers.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Office of Women's Health; Department of Health; Department of Workforce Development.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Sarah Brooks, 317-232-9559.